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HONORING THE RUTHERFORD VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 30, 1996

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I am taking this opportunity to applaud the invaluable services provided by the Rutherford Volunteer Fire Department. These brave, civic minded people give freely of their time so that we may all feel safer at night.

Few realize the depth of training and hard work that goes into being a volunteer firefighter. To quote one of my local volunteers, "These fireman must have an overwhelming desire to do for others while expecting nothing in return."

Preparation includes twice monthly training programs in which they have live drills, study the latest videos featuring the latest in fire fighting tactics, as well as attend seminars where they can obtain the knowledge they need to save lives. Within a year of becoming a volunteer firefighter, most attend the Tennessee Fire Training School in Murfreesboro where they undergo further, intensified training.

When the residents of my district go to bed at night, they know that should disaster strike and their home catch fire, well trained and qualified volunteer fire departments are ready and willing to give so graciously and generously of themselves. This peace of mind should not be taken for granted.

By selflessly giving of themselves, they ensure a safer future for us all. We owe these volunteer fire departments a debt of gratitude for their service and sacrifice.

TRIBUTE TO MARCY VACURA SCHULTZ

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 30, 1996

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Marcy Vacura Schultz, a dedicated community leader from California's 14th Congressional District who is being honored by the 110 affiliated local unions of the Central Labor Council of San Mateo County, AFL-CIO, and their 65,000 members and families with the prestigious Unity Award.

Marcy Vacura Schultz is the business manager of the Building and Construction Trades Council of San Mateo County. She is the first woman to be elected to such a position in the United States. As a former flight attendant, she led 2,500 coworkers in a strike against a major airline in 1983. Based on her belief that female-dominated unions should be treated equally with male-dominated unions, she successfully lobbied the California Joint Legislature to pass a resolution in support of flight attendants and convinced then-Congresswoman Barbara Boxer to launch a national boycott of conscience against the airline. She worked

with 12 cities and the board of supervisors to pass resolutions in support of protecting the existing California prevailing wage laws. She is currently working to assist the economic growth and development of the city of East Palo Alto.

Marcy Vacura Schultz has distinguished herself in San Mateo County in the labor movement. Since joining the Building Trades Council as assistant manager in 1987, she has worked with the Private Industry Council, the Advisory Council on Women, the County Economic Development Advisory Council and has been inducted into San Mateo County's Women's Hall of Fame. She was a founding member of the START program, a project designed to train women in nontraditional jobs, and currently serves on the board of directors of Shelter Network of San Mateo County, the County Expo Advisory Board, the Housing Task Force, and the County Leadership Council on the United Way.

Mr. Speaker, Marcy Vacura Schultz is an outstanding citizen of California's 14th Congressional District. I salute her for the commitment she brings to, and the contributions she has made to our community and the labor movement. I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting Ms. Schultz as she is awarded the prestigious Unity Award.

ATOMIC VETERANS

HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 30, 1996

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of a group of forgotten cold war veterans who, along with their families, are suffering the after-effects of serving in the military during the nuclear age.

I am speaking of atomic veterans and their survivors. These service people were the ones called in to clean up after accidents involving nuclear weapons, apparently with little regard to their safety and long-term health.

While we may never fathom the number and full extent of these accidents, there are two we do know something about, thanks mainly to the diligence of many of the veterans involved in these cleanups who brought the truth to their fellow citizens.

One mishap occurred in Greenland in 1968, when a B-52 bomber carrying four 1.1 megaton bombs crashed, spreading radioactive debris across the frozen tundra. Service people, who were not even issued protective masks, reportedly picked up the deadly pieces with shovels, and in some cases, their bare hands.

In a 1962 incident, Navy personnel on Johnston Atoll in the Pacific were subjected to incredibly high levels of radioactive materials for days when a Thor rocket tipped with a 1.4 megaton warhead blew up on the launch pad during testing. Debris strewn about the atoll, including across the air strip, prevented the flight crews of a Navy air patrol squadron from leaving for days.

Veterans of this squadron suffer from various cancers, teeth and hair loss, sterility, joint disease, eyesight failure and reproductive problems. However, the most insidious manifestation of this problem may not be among these veterans, but in their children, who are also suffering from their parents' exposure.

These children suffer from a variety of ailments, ranging from learning disabilities to congenital deformities, related to genetic damage to their parents who were stationed at these nuclear hot spots.

I believe that these children have suffered because of the negligence of our Government toward their parents, and therefore, am a co-sponsor of H.R. 2401, the Atomic Veterans Survivors Benefits Act. The this much needed legislation was introduced by my good colleagues from Illinois, Mr. HYDE and Mr. FAWELL.

This bill would simply treat the children of atomic veterans suffering from these disabilities like veterans with service-related injuries in regard to compensation. Advocates for those who served at nuclear hot spots such as Johnston Atoll and Greenland include the Veterans Rights Coalition and the Alliance of Atomic Veterans.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 2401. It is the least this country can do for those veterans and their children who have ended up as casualties of the cold war long after it ended.

TRIBUTE TO THE CREW OF THE COAST GUARD CUTTER "BRAMBLE"

HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 30, 1996

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I have the privilege to represent the constituents of the Tenth Congressional District in Michigan. This part of Michigan borders Lake Saint Clair, the Saint Clair River, and Lake Huron, one of the five Great Lakes. It is a beautiful area where our water resources are treasured as a source of recreation and commerce.

The ice that forms on these waters in the winter is always impressive. In the spring, the ice often becomes treacherous for the fans of ice fishing. And, in some years, the ice is a major inconvenience, not only to shipping, but to the residents of places like Harsen's Island.

Ice flows were particularly troublesome this spring. Mother Nature prevented the Harsen's Island ferry from operating, stranding the island's residents. Many freighters have had to wait near Detroit and Port Huron for the United States and Canadian Coast Guard ice cutters to clear a path. This year, the cutters' abilities were seriously challenged.

However, in keeping with the U.S. Coast Guard's vision as "the world's premier maritime service," the crew of the *Bramble* was "Semper Paratus," always ready to perform their duties. In addition to breaking up the ice, the *Bramble* also provided emergency ferry service to the residents of Harsen's Island.

We are truly fortunate to have people committed to serving our nation as members of the Coast Guard. Regardless of conditions, these professionals stand ready to assist people 24 hours a day.

On behalf of the residents of Harsen's Island, and all of us who are grateful for the Coast Guard's devotion to duty, I ask that my colleagues join me in offering a sincere thank you to these "Lifesavers and Guardians of the Sea," especially to the crew members of the *Bramble*.